

January 29, 2016

**Dear Champions, Partners, Friends, and Supporters:**

As we noted last year, changes are coming to the Vermont Safe Routes to School program. The changes are part of an overall restructuring which is necessary because dedicated federal funding for SRTS (which began in 2005) has ended. **We are therefore restructuring the program to ensure that it remains a useful resource even without funding.** We have spent the past year preparing for these changes, which are summarized below and will be taking place spring 2016.



- **The VT SRTS website has been redesigned for easier access** to helpful information and will be launched in February 2016.
- **The resources on the website will be updated to provide more comprehensive assistance to schools in the absence of a dedicated staff member.** These resources will include step-by-step guides for completing different elements of the Five E's, such as how to develop a school travel plan, collect data, and hold contests.
- **The Outreach Manager/Coordinator position will be replaced with a Regional Expert Panel of both technical and program volunteers to help with questions and guidance.** Contact information for Experts in your area will be included on the VT SRTS website, and the Panel will be introduced at the Annual Meeting in Randolph in March 2016.

The goal of the VT SRTS program and the Resource Center has always been to establish self-sustaining school programs, and nearly all of our 89 Partners are at or well on their way to that level. The new structure of the Resource Center is intended to support the ongoing efforts of those schools while providing stand-alone resources for new partners.

We value any input that you have on how to make the new structure as useful to you as possible, and will be discussing this topic at the Annual Meeting in Randolph on March 16th.

We hope to see you there!